



Event Report

**TAIEX EPPA Regional Workshop on the implementation of the
Sulphur Directive**

9-10 March 2021

Live video conference



This Project is funded by the European Union

NIRAS **umweltbundesamt^U**

The project implemented by the Consortium of NIRAS (lead)
and Umweltbundesamt GmbH

1 The event

The TAIEX EPPA Regional Workshop on the implementation of the Sulphur Directive took place on March 9-10, 2021, via live video conference. The workshop was organized in cooperation with TAIEX, and under the EPPA project work programme, namely activity 4.3 “Sulphur Directive capacity building”. It targeted the following EPPA (Environment Partnership Programme for Accession) beneficiaries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey.

The participants came from the relevant authorities of the EPPA beneficiaries involved in the implementation of the Sulphur Directive. They represented the Ministries with the environment, infrastructure, energy, and economy portfolios, in addition to national environmental management agencies, state inspectorates, customs, and transport authorities. Details are available in the list of participants. Civil society was represented by NGOs from the beneficiaries, namely: Co-PLAN Institute for Habitat Development (Albania), Advocacy Training and Resource Center – ATRC (Kosovo), NGO Green Home (Montenegro), Kados – Kadikoy Friends of Science, Culture and Art Association (Turkey). The EU Delegations or Office in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo* Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkey were also present.

The speakers represented EU Member States’ and EU institutions’ experience. There were experts from DG Environment, Marine Environment and Water Industry Unit, European Commission, the European Maritime Safety Agency and from the relevant national authorities of the, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands and Poland. Additionally, the workshop mobilized the contributions of the International Maritime Organization, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), and the Energy Community Secretariat. Details are available in the agenda and the presentations can be downloaded in both the TAIEX website¹ and in the EPPA project website².

The aim of the workshop was to provide advice and guidance so as to strengthen the national capacity of countries benefiting from the EPPA to effectively address the implementation challenges relating to the Sulphur Directive. Special emphasis was placed on the current developments regarding the implementation of the Sulphur Directive in EU Member States, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Energy Community.

2 Proceedings and conclusions

The representatives of the EPPA beneficiary countries presented and discussed their current status of the implementation of the Sulphur Directive, namely the progress achieved in recent years, positive examples, and lessons learned. Some of the countries highlighted a lack of capacity for implementation, related to shortages of trained staff, equipment, and funding. In addition, not all countries have transposed the Directive. It was agreed that shipping accounts for a significant portion of NO_x and SO₂, thereby making it essential to implement the Sulphur Directive in the region in order to improve air quality. The Energy Community Secretariat complemented the countries presentations with an overview of the Directive’s implementation by the contracting parties, as well as other pollution control legislation.

During discussion the EPPA Beneficiaries expressed need for further cooperation with EU MS to hold practical exercises regarding on-board ship monitoring and thus provide hands-on experience (training inspection), as well as further assistance for fulfilling reporting requirements under the SD³.

The European Commission presented its ambitions, in the frame of the Green Deal, to achieve zero emissions in coastal areas. They are grounded in the Commission Implementing Decision 2015/253 that seeks to harmonize procedures concerning on-board fuel (spot) sampling, mandatory number of annual inspections, encourage alternative enforcement, and create a Union information system for data recording and sharing by the EU. Additionally, the experience with Emission Control Areas (ECA) in European seas has been positive, leading to a consideration of additional ECAs in all EU waters if there is a prospectively positive cost-benefit.

¹ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/TMSWebRestrict/resources/js/app/#/library/detail/80347>

² <https://eppanetwork.eu/taix-eppa-regional-workshop-on-the-implementation-of-the-sulphur-directive-2/>

³ The 2nd TAIEX EPPA SD workshop will tentatively be held on 13 December 2021.



The EC's presentation was complemented by a discussion on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for sulphur oxides (Med SOx ECA) pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the framework of the Barcelona Convention by Mr. Franck Lauwers. He concluded that there would be clear environmental and health benefits, with an overall positive cost-benefit outcome.

The European Maritime safety Agency (EMSA) presented its activities in the region regarding the Directive, which included an IPAI funded project for capacity building. The project enhanced the standards of implementation of the international maritime conventions as a step toward the approximation of the beneficiaries' national legislation to the EU standards. The Agency also provided an overview of its portfolio EU-wide related to the implementation of the Directive, including studies, inspection guidance, and the Thetis-EU system⁴.

Finally, the participants benefited from the experiences shared by Member-States, such as Poland, Croatia, Latvia, Malta and Lithuania in terms of their implementation of the Sulphur Directive within the global and European contexts, impacts, and required national legislation. For instance, in the case of Poland it was verified that implementing the SD offers a cost of compliance is much lower than the cost of damages in infrastructure and public health impacts resulting from breathing polluted air or the cost of end-of-pipe abatement. Additionally, it is also much easier to enforce the limits through inspections at retailers, wholesalers as well as at the installations including on the ships. In Poland, the sulphur content is controlled by Maritime Authorities through trade inspection of light fuel oil (taken directly from tanks) and environmental inspections for heavy fuel oil (allowed only in permitted installations). The samples are tested in accredited laboratories using legally defined methodologies. Yearly reports are prepared based on trade and environmental inspections, which includes information on the fuel markets, control activities performed, applied sanctions and corrective actions.

Croatia developed an inspection system based on risk assessment created from Thetis-EU data and CIMIS data (national maritime information system). The targeted inspections control both documents and perform sampling, based in standardized procedures and later tested in authorized laboratories. Inspections have resulted in a cumulative value of 208 000 EUR in fines for the period 2017-2020.

Latvia also reported its inspection, sampling and reporting system. Inspection is also done based on a risk assessment, that includes Thetis-EU alerts, frequency of port visits, last port of call and history of non-compliance. Penalties are targeted to both natural and legal persons, with the latter having higher fines. Fines can be imposed by the inspectors while on board. Latvia faces some challenges related to legal definitions of marine fuel suppliers and their licensing, institutional uncertainty as to the best authority to control fuel suppliers and verification procedures for testing laboratories.

In short, the EU Members have gained certain experience in implementing so far available solutions and mechanisms which could be copied, adapted and further developed by the EPPA beneficiaries. Detailed information about the Member State's procedures for inspection, sampling and testing, sanctions and reporting are available in the presentations. The EU LIFE project⁵ CLINSH - Clean Inland Shipping was also presented as an example of the SD's implementation in the inland shipping environment.

Workshop outputs

The workshop's main outputs were:

- Strengthened capacity to address the implementation challenges of the Sulphur Directive
- Raised awareness on the latest policy developments and tools related to the Sulphur Directive
- Raised awareness of the cross-sectoral nature of Sulphur Directive
- Exchanged experiences in the implementation of the Sulphur Directive between EU Member States and the EPPA beneficiaries
- Increased regional dialogue on the implementation of the Sulphur Directive

⁴ <https://portal.emsa.europa.eu/web/thetis/home>

⁵ <https://www.clinsh.eu/>



- Identification of national obstacles towards the implementation of the Sulphur Directive
- Discussion on the needs of the countries

3 Evaluation

The participants were asked to evaluate the workshop by TAIEX using an online survey after the event. The evaluation results are presented below in a summary table.

			No. Responses	Expert Score	Yes / Excellent	No / Good	Partially / Satisfactory		
88347	Workshop - participant - A. Questions	1	20	-	20 (100%)	-	-		
		2	20	-	19 (95%)	-	1 (5%)		
		3	20	-	20 (100%)	-	-		
		4	20	-	16 (80%)	-	4 (20%)		
		5	20	-	20 (100%)	-	-		
		7	20	-	17 (85%)	3 (15%)	-		
		8	20	-	16 (80%)	4 (20%)	-		
		Workshop - participant - B. Expert ratings	Mr. Dimovski, Mihalj - Other speakers	15	91.66%	10 (67%)	5 (33%)	-	
	Mr. Vajda, Peter - Other speakers		15	93.33%	11 (73%)	4 (27%)	-		
	Mr. Nagl, Christian - Other speakers		15	93.33%	11 (73%)	4 (27%)	-		
	89347	Workshop - participant - B. Expert ratings	Mr. Aida, Sergio - Speaker EU	15	90%	9 (60%)	6 (40%)	-	
Mr. Appelmann, Frank - Speaker MS			15	90%	9 (60%)	6 (40%)	-		
Mr. Callega, John - Other speakers			15	88.33%	8 (53%)	7 (47%)	-		
Mr. Chruszczew, Tomasz - Speaker MS			15	90%	9 (60%)	6 (40%)	-		
Mr. Drenen, Gordon - Speaker MS			15	90%	9 (60%)	6 (40%)	-		
Mr. Lauwers, Franck - Speaker MS			15	90%	9 (60%)	6 (40%)	-		
Mr. Mitsud, Stephen J. - Speaker MS			15	90%	9 (60%)	6 (40%)	-		
Mr. Russo, Giuseppe - Speaker EU			15	90%	9 (60%)	6 (40%)	-		
Ms. Antidormi, Rosa - Speaker EU			15	91.66%	10 (67%)	5 (33%)	-		
Ms. Jonsuikienė, Simona - Speaker MS			15	90%	9 (60%)	6 (40%)	-		
Ms. Marovic Gucic, Ivana - Speaker MS		15	91.66%	10 (67%)	5 (33%)	-			
89347	Workshop - participant - C. Logistic Ratings	1	10	-	8 (80%)	2 (20%)	-		
		2	11	-	7 (64%)	3 (27%)	1 (9%)		
		3	6	-	1 (17%)	5 (83%)	-		
		4	5	-	1 (20%)	4 (80%)	-		
		5	6	-	2 (33%)	4 (67%)	-		
		6	13	-	11 (85%)	1 (8%)	1 (8%)		
		7	12	-	10 (83%)	1 (8%)	1 (8%)		
		8	15	-	13 (87%)	1 (7%)	1 (7%)		
		9	15	-	14 (93%)	-	1 (7%)		
		10	14	-	14 (100%)	-	-		
		11	15	-	14 (93%)	-	1 (7%)		
89347	Workshop - participant - D. Comments	1	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		2	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		3	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		4	8	-	7 (88%)	-	1 (13%)		
		5	8	-	7 (88%)	-	1 (13%)		
		6	8	-	3 (38%)	1 (13%)	4 (50%)		
		7	8	-	6 (75%)	-	-		
		8	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		9	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		89347	Workshop - speaker - C. Logistic Ratings	1	4	-	4 (100%)	-	-
				2	3	-	3 (100%)	-	-
3	3			-	3 (100%)	-	-		
4	2			-	2 (100%)	-	-		
5	2			-	2 (100%)	-	-		
6	7			-	7 (100%)	-	-		
7	8			-	7 (88%)	-	1 (13%)		
8	8			-	8 (100%)	-	-		
9	8			-	8 (100%)	-	-		
10	8			-	8 (100%)	-	-		
11	8			-	8 (100%)	-	-		
89347	Workshop - speaker - D. Comments	1	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		2	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		3	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		4	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		5	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		6	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		7	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		8	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		9	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		10	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		
		11	8	-	8 (100%)	-	-		



Endnotes

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSC 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Agenda (provided as a separate document)

Annex 2: List of Participants (provided as a separate document)

Annex 3: Presentations (provided as a separate document)



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